

THE BELLRINGER

St. Luke's Church

Forest Hills

October 2008

ADULT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Dear Friends,

*What does it mean to be Christian?
Why would one choose to be Christian in the
part of Christ's Body known as the Episcopal
Church?*

Before we get into those questions, I would ask you to keep the following people in your prayers throughout the month of October: Rowena Chodkowski, Joseph Dinas, Anthony Lenti and Olivia Smith are teenagers at Saint Luke's, all preparing for the Rite of Confirmation. Christopher Dippel is also preparing for Confirmation; Sal Amato and Gabrielle Amato Tafuro are preparing for Reception into the Episcopal Church.

Confirmation is one's adult affirmation of faith. It is a personal affirmation of the baptismal vows and promises which, in most cases, were originally made on one's behalf during infancy or early childhood. For teenagers (in the Diocese of Long Island, at least age 16) and older, the adult affirmation—one's *Yes* in the presence of the Bishop and church community—is the responsible decision and public witnessing to the importance of one's faith.

For those who have already been confirmed in another branch of Christ's Church, Reception is the term used when the Bishop receives or welcomes previously confirmed Christians into the Episcopal Church. Whether one is being confirmed or received, those who are presented to the Bishop are affirming the baptismal reality that God in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit is the dynamic heart of our living. We seek to understand all of the events of our lives, and how we are called to be

connected with the lives of others, as our ongoing acts of faith day by day.

Throughout the preparatory period, our parish candidates are reading and studying Scripture, becoming more aware of the sacramental focus (Holy Baptism—Holy Eucharist) of the Book of Common Prayer, and gaining a better appreciation of the heritage of the Episcopal Church.

Their preparation brings me back to the original questions I posed to you; now I will ask them the same way that our candidates are considering them. Suppose you were approached by someone who is not Christian but who wants to understand why you are. How would you respond to "*What does it mean to be Christian?*" That same person then has a follow-up question for you: "*Why would somebody choose to be Christian in The Episcopal Church?*"

Perhaps, in addition to praying for the candidates, you would also like to offer your support by sharing your own responses to these two questions.

Stlukesrector.blogspot.com

During the month of October, interested parishioners are encouraged to visit the Rector's Blog (web address above) and leave your responses to the questions which our candidates for Confirmation and Reception are working on. Their presentation at the Cathedral of the Incarnation before the Bishop on Saturday, November 1 at 10:00am will be an affirmation of faith that moves all of us to consider the importance of faith in our lives.

Faithfully yours,

Tom Reese

“CONTINUITY AND CHANGE”

(Any Day Now...)

If the Rector’s letter hasn’t already reached your mailbox, you will soon be receiving his invitation to all parishioners to sign up for one of the Dessert Meetings scheduled during October. As we gather in one another’s homes, we will share our thoughts on Saint Luke’s ongoing life and ministry.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2009

“*Continuity and Change*” is also the theme of our 2009 Pledge Campaign. The Stewardship Committee mailing will reach you before Saint Luke’s Day, October 19. All members are asked to review the materials and be prepared to submit their 2009 pledges on November 2, All Saints’ Sunday, which is also our Stewardship Sunday.

**SAINT LUKE’S DAY
AND
CELEBRATION OF ST. LUKE’S
95TH ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Our Patronal celebration will be particularly meaningful this year owing to the combination of Saint Luke’s Day with the observance of the 95th anniversary of the founding of our beloved church. This will indeed be a red-letter day for our parish, so don’t forget to **WEAR RED!**

The Liturgy

In the Christian Tradition, our Patron, Luke, was a physician with a keen sense of Christ’s call for us to participate in restoring individuals and groups to wholeness. Our Saint Luke’s Day Holy Eucharist will employ many special prayers to celebrate Christ the Healer, and special choral music will be offered at the 10:30 service.

Exhibit of Saint Luke’s Archives

Looking forward a mere five years to our 100th anniversary, the Centennial Committee has arranged an archival exhibit of documents and photographs in the parish hall relating to Saint Luke’s history. All will have an opportunity to peruse the display before lunch.

Festive Luncheon

We continue the celebration at our festive Saint Luke’s Day luncheon in the parish hall. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and at hospitality hour, so please indicate what dish you will bring to share – main course, side, salad, dessert – and how many will be attending. Beverages will be provided.

**A 95TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE
TO ROBERT TAPPAN (1884-1961),
ARCHITECT OF SAINT LUKE’S**

Mounted on a wall in the chancel of our church is a bronze tablet dedicated to Robert Tappan, architect of the building. (On the plaque, however, his last name is spelled *Tappen*; this is a mistake.) The Tappan/ Toppa family is descended from Abraham Toppa, a member of the landed gentry, who came to America from Yorkshire, England in 1637 and settled in Newbury, Massachusetts. Robert Tappan’s grandfather, the Reverend Daniel Dana Tappan, born in 1798, was a Congregational minister.

Robert Tappan was one of four children born to Eugene and Alice Crosby Tappan. Later in life Robert married Edith Frances Hill and had two daughters, Jessie and Ann. The family were members of Saint Luke’s Parish and lived on Greenway South. In 1918, Robert Tappan was a principal in the firm Tappan and Butler, located at 33 West 42nd Street in New York City. Later he practiced architecture by himself at the same address. He was associated with the firm Cram and Ferguson, architects of The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and at the time of the construction of Saint Luke’s, he was an associate architect for the Mellon Institute buildings at the University of Pittsburgh.

Forest Hills Gardens dates from 1913. Grosvenor Atterbury was the design architect and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. was the landscape architect. It was in this setting that Robert Tappan designed Saint Luke’s Church. The original church building was called “Saint Luke’s Church – Theodore Roosevelt Memorial” (but that is a story for another time).

Designed in 13th Century English Gothic style freely interpreted in rough brick, stone, timber and white stucco wall finishes, the church was ninety feet long and included the present-day narthex with choir above, nave, chancel and sanctuary. It was twenty-two feet wide with a center aisle only. The side aisles, parish office, Rector’s study and the baptistery off the narthex were added at a later date. There was a baptistery and a small chapel on the Harrow Street side (now our Altar for World Peace), and a temporary sacristy where our present-day organ is located. The square bell tower rose only seventy feet high.

Avenue. In 1929, he received the Business Building Award sponsored by Artistic Architecture in Queens for his Queensboro Corporation Building in Jackson Heights, where he also designed English garden houses. Tappan designed private homes in Forest Hills for the Cord Meyer Development Corporation, as well as garden apartments in Kew Gardens.

For all his designs and plans for Saint Luke's Church as well as functioning as the general contractor, Robert Tappan received no fees, donating all his professional services to the parish. Throughout his career, he paid special attention to individual architectural details and was constantly concerned with the quality of his building designs. Above all he had a history of devotion to this place. In the words of Hymn 541 (*Ora Labora*), "Servant, well done."

— Allan Smith

HURRICANE RELIEF: EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please join ERD in prayer and financial support to provide immediate assistance to people whose lives have been torn apart by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in the Caribbean and the United States. Every contribution, no matter how small, will be put to good use helping our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ. You can mail your check made out to Episcopal Relief & Development /Hurricane Relief Fund to P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058, or visit www.er-d.org to make an online contribution.

MADELEINE HOGAN (1922-2008): AN APPRECIATION

The family and many friends of Madeleine Hogan gathered at Saint Luke's on Saturday, September 20th to celebrate the Liturgy of the Resurrection and to pay loving tribute to an exceptional woman. Maddy's many contributions to Saint Luke's, including the hymns and masses she composed for the choir, the show tunes she wrote and the Shakespearean verses she set to music for Gingerbread Players, remain a vibrant memorial. But Maddy was memorable in so many other ways as well, especially for her warmth, wit, and the delightful poems she wrote.

Many years ago when my daughter and her fiancé suddenly decided to postpone their wedding (much to my relief), I had an "un-wedding" party for them.

In 1923, when the vestry approved the final building plans, Mr. Tappan suggested that in order to save money, he would assume the role of general contractor. To effect further economies, all timbers, doors and pews were constructed on the job under Tappan's personal supervision. The original hanging light fixtures were designed by him and were produced by a Forest Hills blacksmith. A very ingenious feature of constructing the nave was the unusual expansion allowance built into the original structure. The side walls were considered temporary, so the nave arcades were filled with wire lath and plaster walls with simple rectangular windows.

In 1946, Albert V. Moore, President of Moore-McCormack Lines, presented Saint Luke's parish with company common stock which became the financial basis for a much needed parish house. Construction began in 1949. The tower of our church was finally extended heavenward as a memorial to the late Mr. Moore by his friends.

Other commissions of Robert Tappan in Forest Hills Gardens include the charming Arbor Close (1925) and Forest Close (1927) between Queens Boulevard and Austin Street, 75th Avenue to 76th

In honor of the occasion, Maddy penned the following sonnet:

Today's the great day of uncelebration,
The party for unbride and unbridled groom.
Disengaged, unbetrothed, their unfettered relation
Continues, sans clerical blessing, to bloom.

In a non-nuptial toast we all drink a libation
To unwedded bliss and content that do loom
On the rosy horizon. May current elation
Remain undisturbed by unconjugal gloom.

Jane's not losing a daughter – rapport still is
flawless;
The non-son she gained is mother-in-lawless.

It's vintage Maddy. There was no one like her.
— Jane Thornton

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MENTOR TO A CHILD?

We are currently considering the possible use of our parish hall for a mentoring program and an after-school tutoring program. Anyone wishing to assist with exploring these ideas, please see me during hospitality hour after church, or send me an e-mail at Velmaa1@hotmail.com.

—Velma Adams

WINGS OF SONG CONCERT

Heavenly Music in a Sacred Space

"MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON" OCTOBER
26 AT 3:00PM

Patricia Blackman Dunn, flute; Christine Diwyck, piano
Hilary Scop, clarinet; Dirk Weis, bassoon
MUSIC BY BEETHOVEN, FUKUSHIMA,
COPLAND AND MARTINU

Suggested donation \$10.00; Students, seniors \$8.00

Reservations and information: 718-268-7772

WWW.STLUKESFORESTHILLS.ORG

STEPHEN LONGMIRE'S PHOTOGRAPHS AT SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM

From October 10th to January 4th, the South Street Seaport Museum's Melville Gallery will feature "Keeping Time in Sag Harbor – the *Other* Port of New York," a selection of photographs from Stephen's recently published book, *Keeping Time in Sag Harbor*. (For those who may not know Stephen, he is the younger son of our own Joyce Egginton.) Combining photographs and historic images, the exhibition will highlight Sag Harbor's longstanding ties to New York City. The Melville Gallery is located at 213 Water Street. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

For further information, visit the museum's web site at www.southstreetseaportmuseum.com.

FAREWELL JASON, HELLO TODD

Those of you who attend the 10:30 liturgy on Sunday mornings may have noticed that Jason Robinette is no longer in the choir. Jason is now singing at an Episcopal church in Manhattan, but Saint Luke's is fortunate that his extremely talented wife, Mim Paquin, is still singing with us. The newest face – and newest voice – in Saint Luke's choir belong to Todd Wachsmann, our new tenor section leader and soloist. Please welcome Todd when you see him at hospitality hour. And by the way, you will be able to see both Jason and Todd in non-singing roles in Gingerbread Players' upcoming production of "Arsenic and Old Lace," which just happens to be directed by Mim Paquin.

SCOTTISH MUSIC AND DANCE

The Cameron Scottish Music Ensemble, directed by Isabelle Smith, is an active organization of musicians playing Scottish and Celtic music. The group has recently begun meeting at Saint Luke's and will be presenting two programs.

Musicians' Workshops: This program of music classes is open to musicians playing any instrument at any level. Workshops are held monthly between October and June. Teachers come from as far afield as Boston, Los Angeles, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia and Scotland. To receive e-flyers about workshops, please contact Isabelle Smith, 718-793-6238, or i.a.smith@att.net.

Scottish Dancing: We are also planning for a program of classes in Scottish and social dancing. If you would like to know more about this, speak to Marianne or me. Plans are in progress; dates and details will be announced soon.

—Brian Percival



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3	B.B. Chamberlain
4	Dennis Daniel
5	Steven Schott
7	Kellen Reese
8	Brian and Marianne Percival (A)
11	Edna Boyce
14	Emma Sydenham
22	Chris and Diane Santana (A)
23	Brice E. Simmons
24	Emma Simcox
28	Noelle Lenti
30	Chris Santana
30	Fisher Brown
31	Jane Thornton
31	Shalini Varghese

St. Luke's Church Vestry

Rector: The Reverend Thomas F. Reese
Wardens: Anne Harte Su, Jonathan Wallin
Vestry: Sandra Baker, Dennis Khare, Frances Sergi, Allan Smith, Velma Adams, Gary Carldon, Barbara Gratz, Joe Occhiuto, Paul Dinas, David Smith, Jean Tessier, Jane Thornton
Treasurer: Arthur Tasker
Asst. Treasurer: Kim Su
Clerk: Jean Tessier

Parish Staff

The Reverend William A. Doubleday,
Priest Associate
William J. Stokes, Interim Organist
and Choir Director
Sally Friedman, Parish Administrator
Omar Garcia, Sexton

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